



ARMAGEDDON 1991



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SUPERMAN

IN ACTION COMICS

1991
34



**METROPOLIS
DISASTER
AREA!**

BY STERN, McLEOD & RODIER

IN ARMAGEDDON 2001 #2
S.T.A.R. LABS CAME DOWN...
LEAVING A JOB FOR
MORE THAN JUST SUPERMAN!

SKULL DUGGERY

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL
ADVANCED RESEARCH
LABORATORIES, METROPOLIS...

AND YOU'RE
SURE THAT YOUR
NEW INHIBITOR
CYLINDER WILL
KEEP THE PARA-
SITE CONTAINED,
PROFESSOR?

DREAM ON!
I'VE GOTTEN
OUTTA WORSE
THAN THIS!

PAY HIM NO
MIND, SUPERMAN.
I DARE SAY THAT HE
HAS NEVER BEEN
SO COMPLETELY
INCARCERATED.

THE PARASITE
CANNOT HARM
ANYONE FROM WITHIN
THAT TUBE... BUT
WE ARE STILL ABLE
TO STUDY HIS
ENERGY-LEECHING
POWERS.

DR. LEUNG
HERE DESERVES
MUCH OF THE
CREDIT FOR
THAT!

PROFESSOR
HAMILTON
IS OVERLY
GENEROUS...

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... I MERELY SUGGESTED A FEW REFINEMENTS IN HIS DESIGNS.

BUT YOU'RE BOTH CERTAIN THAT HE CAN'T BREAK OUT OF THAT?

AS CERTAIN AS IS POSSIBLE THE INHIBITOR RENDERERS HIM MUCH TOO WEAK TO BREAK OUT... AND IT HAS DOZENS OF FAILSAFE.

TOO-POW!!

YES, EVEN IF THE ENTIRE BUILDING LOST POWER, THE CYLINDER'S BACK-UP SYSTEMS WOULD KEEP IT RUNNING-- FOR OVER A WEEK!

HE COULDN'T ESCAPE WITHOUT OUTSIDE HELP. AND WHAT LUNATIC WOULD FREE A MAN WHOSE TOUCH CAN KILL?

LATER...

... JUST THE SAME, I HOPE S.T.A.R.'S SECURITY STAYS ON THE BALL.

WOW! IT'S HIM... IT'S REALLY HIM!

NOT TO WORRY. NO ONE CAN GET INTO THAT SECTION WITHOUT SPECIAL CLEARANCE.

AH, THERE YOU ARE, JOE-- I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU'D FORGOTTEN YOUR APPOINTMENT!

SORRY I'M LATE, DOC. I HAD TO PICK UP SOME TICKETS AND THEN--!

INCREDIBLE!

WELL... LOOK! IT'S SUPERMAN... RIGHT HERE... IN THE FLESH!

Y'KNOW, I'VE BEEN A FAN OF THE OLD SERIAL HEROES ALL MY LIFE-- CAPTAIN THUNDER, COMMANDO LODY, AND ALL-- BUT SUPERMAN... HE'S THE REAL THING!

NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET THIS CLOSE TO HIM!

UH-HUH. IF YOU CAN PULL YOURSELF AWAY, WE'LL GET ON WITH THE EXAM.

YOU ARE STILL SUFFERING PERIODIC FATIGUE?



"I'RAID SO, I DO APPRECIATE THIS, DOC. MY REGULAR PHYSICIAN WASN'T ABLE TO FIND ANYTHING WRONG WITH ME."

"NEITHER HAVE I... SO FAR, BUT YOU SAID THE FATIGUE STARTED ABRUPTLY?"

"YEAH, JUST A FEW MONTHS AGO."



"UHM-HMM. THEN THERE ARE A FEW MORE TESTS I'D LIKE TO RUN. JOE?"

"MR. MARTIN?"

"HUH?! OH, SURE... WHATEVER YOU SAY."

"NOW."



"HAM CAN AFFORD TO BE PRAGMATIC ABOUT THE PARASITE... HE DIDN'T SEE THE SUBWAY TRAINFUL OF BODIES THAT HUMAN LEECH LEFT IN HIS PATH."

"I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT SIGHT... AS LONG AS I LIVE."

"NOT EVEN MY POWERS ARE A PROTECTION FROM THAT KILLER. SCOPING HIM TOOK A LOT OUT OF ME. ** IF HE SHOULD GET LOOSE AGAIN--!"



"I'D WORRY A LOT LESS IF THE PROFESSOR'S HARDWARE HAD A BETTER REPUTATION FOR ENDURANCE AND S.T.A.R.'S LABS' TRACK RECORD ISN'T EXACTLY UNBLEMISHED--"

"--ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THEIR CONNECTION WITH THAT PROTECT ANGSTROM NESS!!"

"* MAN OF STEEL #4."



"I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH ANY OF S.T.A.R.'S LOCAL PERSONNEL... NOT SINCE KITTY FAULKNER LEFT TOWN."

"WHAT DOES ANYONE REALLY KNOW ABOUT S.T.A.R. ANYMORE? MAYBE IT'S TIME SOMEONE STARTED PURSUING THAT QUESTION."

"THAT SOUNDS LIKE A JOB FOR--"



-- MY BEAUTIFUL BRIDE-TO-BE! AFTER ALL, LOIS DOES HAVE A PERSONAL STAKE IN THE ANGSTROM BUSINESS THROUGH HER FATHER'S INVOLVEMENT...

...AND I'M LIKELY TO BE PRETTY BUSY THESE NEXT FEW WEEKS. I MAY HAVE BROKEN THE BACK OF THE INTER-ANG ORGANIZATION--*

-- BUT THERE ARE STILL PLENTY OF INTER-GANGSTERS AT LARGE TO DEMAND SUPERMAN'S ATTENTION. * SUPERMAN #60.



HI, GORGEOUS, I WAS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, AND--!

WHU--?

HIYA, MR. KENT! BET YOU'RE SURPRISED TO SEE ME HERE, HUH?

AS A MATTER OF FACT, YES. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN, ALLIE?

NOT BAD, PRETTY BORED, THOUGH, SINCE THE PLANET WENT ON STRIKE...



... THAT'S WHY LOIS SUGGESTED THAT I COME ON OVER. THERE'S NO COPING TO BE DONE, BUT AT LEAST I CAN LEND MORAL SUPPORT!

HEY, EVERYBODY, LOOK WHO'S HERE!

HULLO, KENT.

HI, CLARK!

WHAT'S ANOTHER GOOD WORD FOR "ACCIDENT"? TRY "MISHAP."

UH-HUH, THANKS. GOTTA GO NOW! 'BYE!

CLARK--!



C'MON, ELROY, LET'S GET YOU SOME TUNA.

HI, BABE! THIS IS A SURPRISE!

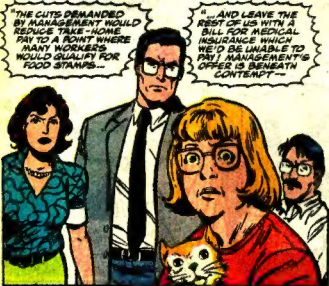
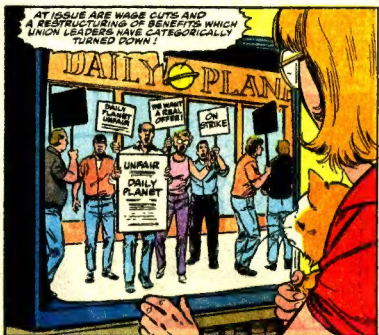
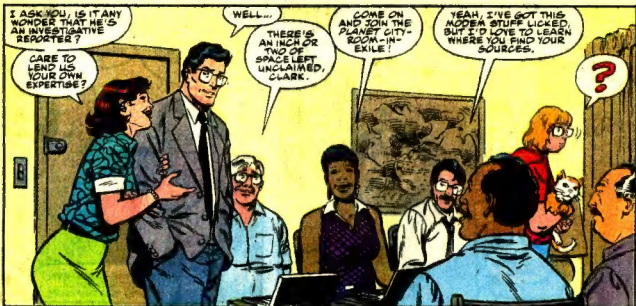
MMM--MWWHA?!

LOIS, WHAT'S GOING ON?

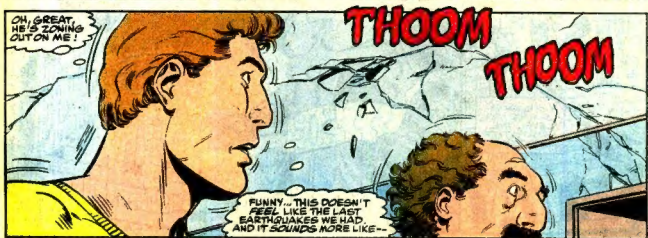


OH... WELL... WE'RE NOT THE ONLY PLANET REPORTERS WITH SYNDICATION DEALS, YOU KNOW. BUT NOT EVERYONE IS THRILLED TO BE USING LAPTOPS AND MODEMS TO SEND STORIES TO THE WIRE SERVICES, SO...

... YOU ORGANIZED A LITTLE SUPPORT GROUP.







"--SOMEONE INTO HEAVY CONSTRUCTION IS UP ON THE ROOF!"

COPPER, LEAD AND SOLID STEEL FLY ABOUT AT THE ARMORED MAN'S MEREST GESTURE, FORMING ENORMOUS COMPONENTS--

--ASSEMBLING THEMSELVES INTO A MASSIVE ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION THE MOST POWERFUL THIS WORLD HAS YET SEEN!

ITS CREATOR ALREADY POSSESSES POWERS AND ABILITIES BEYOND THOSE OF MORTAL BEINGS ... BUT THEY ARE NOT ENOUGH.

ONCE HE WAS ONE OF OUR WORLD'S MIGHTY SUPER-HEROES.

NOW HIS GOAL IS TO BECOME NOTHING LESS THAN THE EARTH'S ABSOLUTE MONARCH!

* THE MYSTERIOUS ORIGIN OF MONARCH IS RECOUNTED IN ARMAGEDDON 2001 # 2 ... ON SALE NOW!

HE HAS COME HERE TO FULFILL HIS DESTINY.

... AND, IN THE PROCESS, DESTROY THOSE WHO WOULD MOST ACTIVELY CHALLENGE HIS RULE ...

... HIS OWN FORMER ALLIES!

MONARCH!

HIS PLAN IS SIMPLE: TO LEVEL THE GREAT CITY OF METROPOLIS...

SO! LET THE BATTLE BEGIN...

BOOM K-TOOM

GEEZ, NOW IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S A WAR GOING ON OUTSIDE!

DOG?
KOF-KOF;
WHERE ARE YOU?

WHERE AM I...
AND HOW DO I
GET OUT? I'M SO
TURNED AROUND...
AND IT'S SO DARK...
I'M NOT EVEN
SURE I'M ON THE
SAME FLOOR
ANMORE!

HEY!
OVER
HERE...

...YOU
GOTTA
HELP
ME!

SURE,
WHAT CAN I--? KOW!

WHAT'S
THAT?!

KA-THOOM

WHO KNOWS?
LOOK, I'M
STUCK
IN THIS...
TEST
CHAMBER!

I CAN
GET US BOTH
TO SAFETY, IF
YOU'LL FREE ME!

HOW
DO I DO
THAT?

THERE'S AN
EMERGENCY
OVERRIDE SWITCH
ON THE MAIN CON-
SOLE... YEAH,
THAT'S IT!

HURRY!
GIVE IT A
GOOD, HARD
PULL AND
THEN...

EEEEYAAAAA!!

AS THE MASSIVE
GROUNDING CABLES
OF MONARCH'S EQUIP-
MENT MAKE CONTACT
WITH THE CONSOLE--

--ENERGIES
BEYOND HUMAN
KEN SURGE
THROUGH THE
PARASITE AND
HIS INTENDED
VICTIM!

BUT, WHILE THEY STAND
TRANSFIXED AND
HELPLESS WITHIN...

...OUTSIDE, THE TIDE
OF THE BATTLE TURNS
TO FAVOR OUR WORLD'S
DEFENDERS!*

IN A SUDDEN IMPLOSION
OF ENERGY, THE ENGINE
OF DEATH IS CONSUMED
AND-- APPARENTLY--
MONARCH WITH IT!

THE EARTH'S
TRUE HEROES
HAVE PREVAILED.

METROPOLIS
STILL STANDS

BUT VICTORY
HAS NOT BEEN
WON WITHOUT
SOME COST

* THOSE
INTERESTED
IN THE COURSE
OF THIS WAR
MAY WISH TO
PERUSE THE
AFOREMENTIONED
ARMAGEDDON
SPECIAL

EVEN BEFORE THE DUST HAS SETTLED, EARTH'S CHAMPIONS AGAIN SPRING INTO ACTION-- THIS TIME AS RESCUERS...

EASY DOES IT. DON'T WORRY... WE'LL HAVE YOU OUT IN NO TIME

BROKEN COLLARBONE... FOL CRACKED RIBS... NO SIGNS OF INTERNAL BLEEDING, THANK GOD. SHE'S COMING AROUND...

IT'S AT TIMES LIKE THESE THAT I MOST ENVY HIM AND J'ONN AND THEIR STRENGTH. STILL, THERE'S MORE THAN ENOUGH WORK HERE FOR US ALL!

IT'S OKAY, MA'AM. YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT. TRY NOT TO MOVE.

O-O-KAY

GARDNER, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE, GOLD? I'M SEARCHIN' FOR SIGNS OF MONARCH!

IF THAT SH@#%!! TURN COAT DIDN'T BLOW UP, I'M GONNA PUNCH HIM INTO THE NEXT DECADE!

PUT A HOLD ON THE REVENGE, GUY--

...THERE ARE PEOPLE HERE WHO NEED OUR ATTENTION A WHOLE LOT MORE!

"IF WE DON'T WORK FAST, WE'RE LIABLE TO LOSE SOME."

UH-UNGH!

WHA! WUZZAT?

WHY IZZIT SO CLOUDY ALLUVA SUDDEN?

GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE..

'FORE IT STARTS TO RAIN YEAH



NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

SHEEP
COUNTRY

KELLEY, WILL
YOU CALM
DOWN?!

I AM
CALM...
PERFECTLY
CALM.

WHAT
MAKES YOU
THINK
I'M NOT
CALM?!

YOU HAVEN'T
STOPPED
PACING SINCE
WE GOT HERE

WELL,
STOP, WILL
YOU?
MAYBE
I LIKE TO
PACE!

YOU'RE
MAKING ME
NERVOUS!

DON'T START WITH ME
SYDNEY HAPPERSEN! I
NEVER ASKED TO BE PART
OF THIS MISSING HEIR
BUSINESS! YOU SHANG-
HAIED ME OUT HERE TO
THE BACKSIDE OF
NOWHERE!

I'M SORRY, KELLEY,
BUT IT HAD TO BE THIS
WAY! AFTER LUTHOR'S WILL
WAS FOUND, NAMING YOU
AS THE BOY'S MOTHER--!

WHOSE
MOTHER?
I MEAN
MINE?

OMIGOD
YOU'RE...

LEX
LUTHOR THE
SECOND, IF
YA PLEASE...

HAH-HA, I CAN'T TELL
YA HOW GOOD IT IS AT
LAST TO HOLD YA!

I
DIDN'T
EXPECT
YOU TO
BE SO...
TALL.

...AN'
EVEN IF YA
DON'T!

AN' YOU'RE
GRETCHEN
KELLEY-- ME
LONG-LOST
MUM!



THAT'S THANKS
IN PART TO YOU,
MUM... GOOD
GENES, DON'T
YA KNOW... YOURS
AN' POP'S!

PUT 'ER THERE,
HAPPENSEN
GOOD TO SEE
YA AGAIN!

Y-YES
YOU
TOO

WELL... AH
WHAT DO
WE ALL DO
NOW?



WHY THAT'S
OBVIOUS, ON T
IT? WE GET
READY FOR
MY AMERICAN
DEBUT!

I HAVE AN
EMPIRE TO
CLAIM, AFTER
ALL



... AND A
CITY TO
RESTORE!"

LYLE DEAN
REPORTING FOR WGSB
NEWS. IT HAS BEEN 12
HOURS SINCE S.T.A.R.
LABS' DOWNTOWN HIGH-
RISE WAS LEVELLED

SOME
80 PEOPLE
HAVE BEEN
RESCUED FROM THE
RUBBLE. TWELVE BODIES
HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM
THE SCENE. FIVE MORE
REMAIN TO BE IDENTIFIED
AND STILL THE SEARCH
CONTINUES...

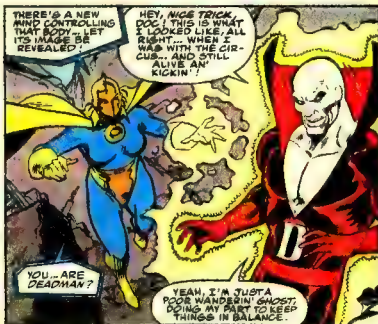
OVER
HERE. I NEED
A HAND

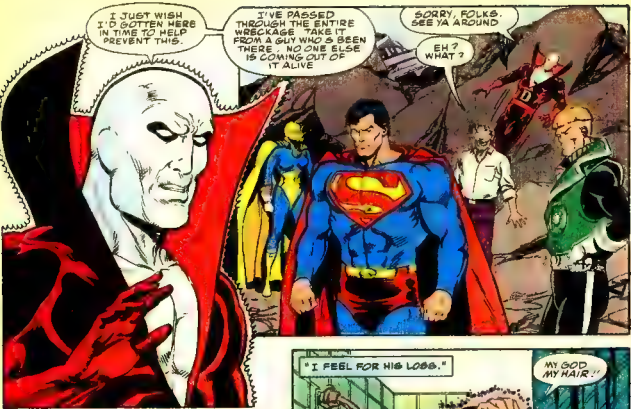


NO PROBLEM,
SUPERMAN. I
HAVE HIM

BE CAREFUL
WITH HIM, FATE--
HE'S SUFFERING
FROM SHOCK AND
EXPOSURE.

DOCTOR FATE
IS ALWAYS CAREFUL





I JUST WISH
I'D GOTTEN HERE
IN TIME TO HELP
PREVENT THIS.

I'VE PASSED
THROUGH THE ENTIRE
WRECKAGE TAKE IT
FROM A GUY WHO'S BEEN
THERE. NO ONE ELSE
IS COMING OUT OF
IT ALIVE

SORRY, FOLKS.
SEE YA AROUND

EH?
WHAT?



WHAT IN
THE
WORLD
IS GOING
ON?

WE'LL TELL
YA ALL ABOUT
IT LATER,
POPS!

HEY, BIG
BLUE...!

LET HIM
BE THIS
HIS CITY

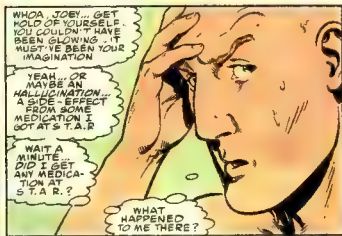
HE TAKES
SUCH TRAGEDY
VERY
PERSONALLY



"I FEEL FOR HIS LOSS."

MY GOD
MY HAIR!"

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO MY HAIR?
AND
WHY AM I
GLOWING?



WHOA, JOEY... GET
KOLD OF YOURSELF.
YOU COULDN'T HAVE
BEEN GLOWING... IT
MUST'VE BEEN YOUR
IMAGINATION

YEAH... OR
MAYBE AN
HALLUCINATION...
A SIDE EFFECT
FROM SOME
MEDICATION I
GOT AT S.T.A.R

WAIT A
MINUTE...
DID I GET
ANY MEDICA-
TION AT
S.T.A.R.?

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO ME THERE?

WHY CAN'T I REMEMBER? IS
MEMORY LOSS PART OF MY
MYSTERY ALIEN OR DUE TO
SOME TREATMENT?

DOCTOR,
DOCTOR,
GIVE ME THE
NEWS...



BOOP-
BEE-DEE!
WE'RE
SORRY...

...THE NUMBER
YOU HAVE
CALLED... IS OUT-
OF-SERVICE!

S.T.A.R.
LABS? OUT
OF SERVICE?!



GAH!!

RACK!

HOLEE--!
THAT DESK
TOP... WAS
SOLD OAK



I GOTTA
GO SEE THAT
SPECIALIST.

DON'T WANT PEOPLE
STARING AT MY DOME...
IF I WEAR MY CYCLING
DUDS, NO ONE'LL SEE...!
A LONG BIKE RIDE'LL DO
ME SOME GOOD ANYWAY!

WHAT ELSE
HAVE I
FORGOTTEN?
WHAT'S TODAY...
FRIDAY?
YEAH...



...I CAN'T GET SICK
NOW! FILM SERIAL FESTI-
VAL OPENS TONIGHT AT
THE TIOLI... BEEN
WAITING MONTHS FOR
THAT

I'LL FINALLY
SEE MY ALL-TIME
FAVORITE SERIAL
ON THE BIG
SCREEN!



I'VE WORN OUT TWO
TAPES, WATCHING THE
CURSE OF THE
ATOMIC--!

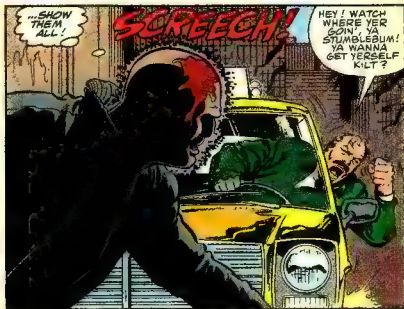
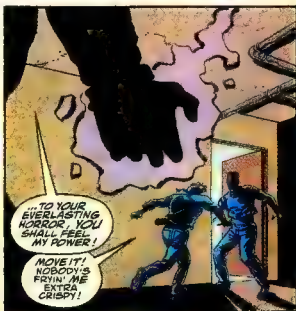
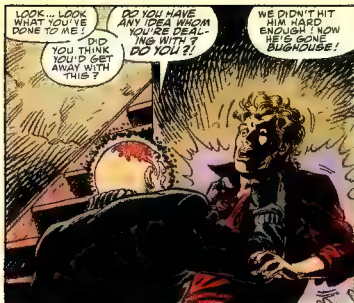
HEY! WHAT'RE
YOU DOING DOWN
HERE? THAT'S
MY BIKE!

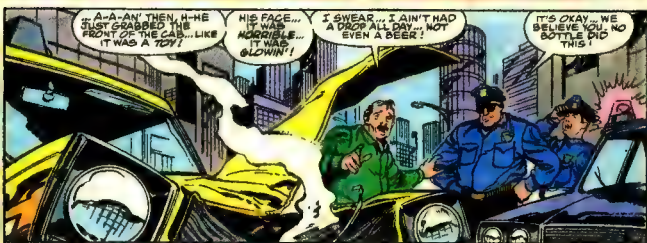
YA MEAN
"WAS" YOUR
BIKE!

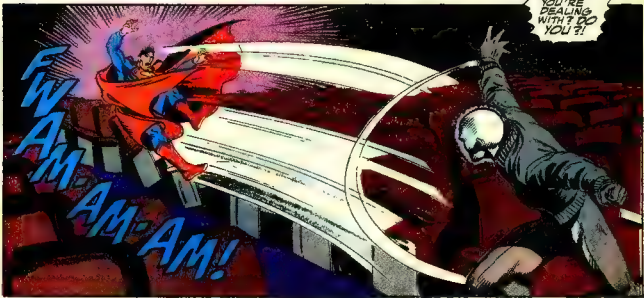
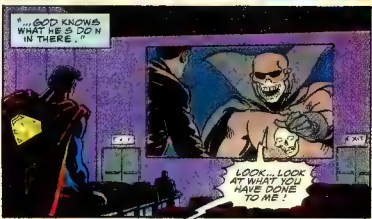
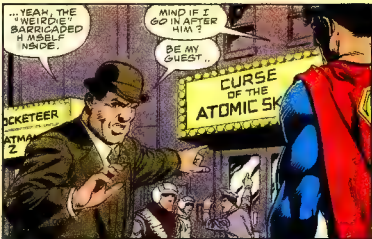
NO WAY--THAT
COST ME PLENTY!
DROP IT AND CLEAR
OUT, OR I CALL
THE COPS!

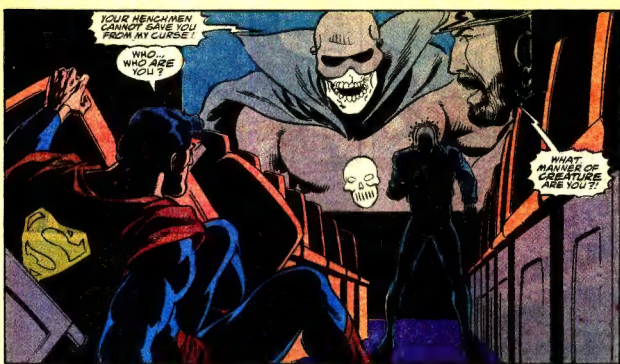
YOU
THREATENIN'
US? HUH? YOU
THREATENIN'
US?!











RE:ACTION

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Before we dig into the stack of mail on ACTION COMICS #666, we have a few missives from last week's condensed KRYPTOGRAMS to cover. Shall we?

Dear Superior Ones:

Someone, it seems, has it in for J'onn J'onzz this month. JJ dies twice at the hands of Superman in three weeks. But I suppose that he'll do anything to avoid another G'nort story. Still, it's cruel to the Martian Manhunter to kill him in both ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #479 and the SUPERMAN Annual. Is this double-death a coincidence, or does someone really have it in for J'onn?

As for the rest of the issue, I reserve judgment till after ACTION #666, but it's clear as natural gas that Houston is the Space Center, and that Supes is probably on the moon, trying to stop the Dominators 1005 years early. So far, it's been interesting, but I feel cheated by the two pages of darkness and the four splash panels. I wish that everyone would take a lesson from Dave Gibbons in WATCHMEN, like Keith Giffen did in LEGION. The splash page is a cheat. So cut it out. And stop killing J'onn. He is an endangered species, and killing him is a federal offense. See you in seven.

Simon DelMonte
Queens, NY

We don't think many people would agree with you, Simon—everyone seems to get a thrill out of seeing a few full-page shots of the Man of Steel!

Dear Dan:

Ah, the mystery unfolds. I'm sure that you already know what's happening here: you've probably known since the last Super-summit talks. (They have those at Camp David, don't they?)

Anyway, with the likely result of looking like a fool, I'll venture a guess: Supes hasn't quite made it back from his time jaunt yet. The clue was Supes talking about the Earth still existing in the future, after the moon has been blown up! No way, Dan. I saw that George Pal film *When Worlds Collide* (1951) and I know that without the moon, our Earth wouldn't be able to maintain itself in its orbit.

So, the moon wasn't destroyed and Superman is having dreams on the dark side of the moon, perhaps due to oxygen deprivation.

Did I guess it? Huh? Or maybe Supes really is the Monarch!

Charlie Harris
Tucson, AZ

Of course the Earth can exist without the moon—you still checking out LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES or not, Charlie? After all, who do you trust, George Pal or us?

Dear Mr. Carlin:

There are only a select few appearances of the current League that I hold in my heart to be "true" League appearances. Oddly enough, ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #479 was one of them. This is odd because the reader is not even sure if these events are actually taking place. (You know what I mean!)

The League was there (three or more members constitutes a League appearance in my collection), they faced an obvious threat to the well-being of moralistic ideals, and they faced the battle through all the way, for better or worse. J'onn J'onzz is one of DC's solely underused characters, and I think for his power level and interest factor that this is a real crime. I think he really shone here, in many ways, including the fact that for all his power he is still in the shadow of the Man of Steel. Although I root for the Manhunter during each of their battles, I secretly would be disappointed if J'onn actually won because it would be unrealistic to me. (Again, you know what I mean.)

Let's see more of the Manhunter: I wouldn't mind if it is in these pages or elsewhere. Also I must make mention of Aquaman, as I will in all my letters until he has his own title.

One more thing: Who is Uncle Elvis and what kind of deal does he have with you to be printed in every DC lettercol every month? I'm not complaining, it just gets curious every so often because he very rarely has much to say.

Chuck Dill
Fairfax, VA

We're glad you liked the way we handled J'onn's appearance, Chuck; we have a special place in our hearts, too, for anyone with a hankering for Oreos! As for the frequency of Elvis Orten letters, it's pretty simple: he writes a lot of letters—short and to-the-point letters! Of course, he's never had two letters in one column...

Mr. Carlin:

The speech patterns of the crystal alien in ACTION COMICS #666 sound REAL familiar, but for the life of me I can't place them. All my comic book characters' speech patterns are blurring into one (can you imagine that).

Good story! Captain Atom and Firestorm as the big guns, good! I would have liked it better if Starman, Valor, and Captain Marvel had shown up along with the two, but I realize the limited room for a battle of such epic proportions.

So I guess I just have one question/observation/complaint. Where is Superman's life? SLOW DOWN, for God's sake. It seems like my own life is flying by (and this is finals week) and I doubt you guys are helping it by upping the pace with MAN OF STEEL. Don't get me wrong—I love the idea of Superman every week—but let's have a couple of issues where Superman takes a breather from this pace and deals with the more cerebral, philosophical issues linked to pounding the bad guy in the face. You don't want the Man of Tomorrow turning into a Marvel-ish character, do you?

Well, I guess that's kind of impossible. Claws are silly and Superman's a big boy.

Chuck Dill
Fairfax, VA

With four books a month to work with, we'll not only have a lot more room to look into Clark's inner thoughts, but the other people in his life as well. And yes, you're right, claws are silly!

Dear Actioners:

I am not a superstitious person. With that said, I would like to tell you what happened when I purchased the "fateful" ACTION COMICS #666.

I had just bought two bags of groceries for Saturday night's dinner, and proceeded to finish my errands by going to my local comics shop and picking up my weekly dose of fine literature. Along with ACTION COMICS #666, I also purchased about \$14 worth of other comic books (including two Prestige Format books). The salesperson put my comics into a paper bag, and realizing that I now had three bags and only two hands, I proceeded to toss my comics into one of my two grocery bags.

I'd forgotten about the fish.

If only I'd chosen the other grocery bag! But instead I unthinkingly placed my comics into a bag containing cold, wet, soggy fish wrapped in cold, wet, soggy paper. During my walk home, the comics acted like any good paper product and soaked up the puddle of water at the bottom of the grocery bag like a sponge. I got home to discover seven massively water-damaged comic books.

Coincidence? Maybe. But in twelve years of collecting comics, nothing like this has ever happened to me. So perhaps a comic book numbered 666 isn't quite as harmless as I thought.

All I know is that I now have \$15 worth of comic books that smell like halibut!

Jon Lane
New York, NY

P.S. I'm glad that you moved to a new address!

Sounds like you're saying ACTION #666 stank, Jon. Still, as a consolation, how about a special four-leaf clover Baldy Award (it doubles as a sponge, too)!

By the way, we like our new address, too, but the red letters atop the old building can still be seen, glowing menacingly, through Mike Carlin's office window! Eeeek!

Dear Re:Actants:

Gawd, I love it when you guys screw around with Supes's marbles. Putting him through the wringer, raking the Big Guy over the coals and leaving him twisting in the wind never fails to put a contorted grin on my face.

Mind you, it's not controlling Supes's mind; rather, it's the fooling around with his memories and his perceptions that makes Supes feel completely helpless that I find wickedly delightful. Cuts the Big Guy down real quick to human level. The "Red Glass" trilogy was simply an excellent example of such manipulation, unlike anything you've shown since SUPERMAN #25.

By the way, I always knew that Supes could beat the livin' tar outta every other hero in the DC Universe at the same time. Also, the use of Wonder Woman as the only person who can approach and calm down Superman in his desperate confusion was a sublime touch. Does Lois know that Clark still holds such strong and deep feelings for Diana? Is anyone going to tell Lois?

Since the overcoming of adversity defines a hero, however, I have to tell you that both my brother and I (my brother taking it a lot worse than me) were disappointed in the overly deus ex machina resolution. The aliens just told Superman what was happening. Yes, sure, it was basically all a misunderstanding, but, sheesh, couldn't Supes have been a little more active, in ACTION comics, no less?

Paul Chin
(address not provided)

Tell Lois her guy has a thing for a goddess? Anonymously, maybe... with a long distance telephone call...

Dear Mike:

You know there's a problem when it takes longer to read the letter column than the actual story. As if our quota of senseless dream deaths wasn't met last chapter, another half dozen helpful heroes get offed this go 'round, as well. Between that, the massive missile strike, and the total annihilation of Metropolis, I'd have to say, offhand, this issue wasn't quite as cheery as usual.

About the only one who escaped unscathed was Wonder Woman. Were there any lingering doubts this was but a dream, her lack of protective clothing on the Moon provides a big hint. Most astronauts require more than patriotic halter tops to survive. After three chapters of constant carnage, at least you bothered to spare Wonder Woman from explosive decompression. What restraint!

Anyway, if nothing else, after this imaginary trio of fill-ins, it'll be nice to return to the real continuity—presuming that, too, isn't something Clark dreamt after too many cheese and Kryptonite pizzas before bedtime.

Joe Frank
Scottsdale, AZ

Dear Guys:

So, the big red Christmas tree ornament helped Superman "face the darkness in the corners of my mind... and renewed my ability to overcome it." Sounds like a wrench in the works for Waverider, if you ask me!

Tracy Shew
Johnson City, NY

Not really. Waverider's encounters with Superman never really permeate his consciousness, and in the nanosecond it takes for Waverider to "read" his timeline, Clark forgets it ever happened at all.

Dear Mike and Dan:

Was it merely coincidence that the "Red Glass" storyline came out so close to the ARMAGEDDON 2001 ANNUAL, or was there more to it? Whatever, ACTION COMICS #666 served as a perfect answer to the future presented in ANNUAL #3. After facing this dark side and confronting his fears over the last month, I think it's safe to say that it's less likely that the Man of Steel's future will follow the fate presented by Waverider.

A question occurred to me while I was reading this storyline—how do you go about assigning storylines like this one? I would have thought that the story was completely James D. Hudnall's, apart from the way it tied into the rest of Superman's continuity. So what gives—do you go to a writer like Hudnall and say, "We need a three-part story with Superman involving this and this" or does the writer come to you with a storyline which you then get him to change slightly so that it fits better into continuity? Go on, solve this great mystery of comics.

Roll Hirst
W. Yorks, England

You wouldn't believe us if we told you; on this one, Rol. A great mystery it shall remain!

—Dan Thorsland
Knows All, Tells Nothing

NEXT WEEK: Joe Martin's delusion that he is the movie serial hero the Atomic Skull becomes even more twisted when he decides that Superman is his archnemesis! To help us "illustrate" the point, Curt Swan will be on hand to pencil a special "point of view" chapter, so that we can see the fight through the rather addled perceptions of the Atomic Skull! This one's tough to describe; you'll have to see it to believe it! So join us for **SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #5**, by Louise Simonson, Jon Bogdanove, and Dennis Janke!

IN TWO WEEKS: in **SUPERMAN #61**, Waverider tries to alter time for all the right reasons—or does he? The Linear Men aren't so sure, and they mean to put a stop to his activities! Superman must decide who is right, and the fate of hundreds of innocent people hangs in the balance! A very important turning point in the saga of Waverider, brought to us by Dan Jurgens and Brett Breeding.

IN THREE WEEKS: Professor Hamilton enlists Superman's aid in an experiment of the mind, but who is really pulling the strings? Could this dangerous gamble be the nail in the coffin for a troubled S.T.A.R. Labs, and will it irreversibly harm Superman's psyche? This tale is called "Blackout" (for more reasons than one, and it's the first of five parts! Be here when Jerry Ordway, Tom Grummett, and Doug Hazlewood bring us **ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #484!**)

IN ONE MONTH: Superman is stranded at the North Pole, his mind reeling from the effects of Hamilton's experiment! Will he regain his wits in time to see Lex Luthor Jr. arrive in Metropolis, just in time to pull the city back from the brink of destruction—or to simply push it over the edge? All this and more in **ACTION COMICS #671**, by Roger Stern, Bob McLeod, and Denis Rodier!

This issue's "Armageddon Aftermath" cover was pencilled and inked by Dan Jurgens and Bob McLeod, and colored by Glenn Whitmore! Put your hands together for 'em!



“...AND SCANNING FOR ALL!”

BeastCharming:
Not quite Big Blue,
but he's halfway there!

